

[28 November, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

on February 28, 2005. Further project development activities are on hold, as 'in principle' approval for the pre-proposal from NIOC is still awaited.

(D) Participation in Upstream

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) is participating in development of oil fields in Iran. Jufeyr Oil Field was offered to OVL in 2004 and the offer was formalized in the form of an MoU signed on January 7, 2005 with NIOC. OVL was offered 100% rights and obligations for the development of Jufeyr field as an operator and 20% rights and obligations for the development of Yadavaran field as a non-operator. OVL has submitted the Master Development Plan (MDP) for the Jufeyr field to NIOC on October 1, 2006 and is awaiting their response to the proposal. NIOC is negotiating the MDP for the development of Yadavaran field with the operating company (Chinese Company). Once the terms and conditions are agreed between NIOC and the operating company for the development of Yadavaran field, NIOC will send a 'Letter of Offer'¹ to OVL mentioning the terms and conditions. OVL is yet to receive 'Letter of Offer' from NIOC.

OVL has also signed an MoU with Petropars for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector on August 1, 2005. The MoU includes participation in South Pars Phase-12 involving production of 3 Bcf/d from 36 wells.

OVL is operator of Farsi Offshore Block, spread over 3500 square kilometres. IOC and OIL are other partners in this block. OVL has drilled three wells on BB structure of the block. The fourth exploratory well on BB structure is under drilling. The commerciality of these blocks is under assessment.

By their very nature, such bilateral projects involve protracted discussions and detailed examination of various aspects of the projects to avoid any misunderstanding and future conflict. These projects are being pursued both at Government to Government level and by the companies concerned.

New norms for vehicle insurance

*95. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new norms for vehicle insurance are going to be adopted from next financial year which would not be based only on purchase value of the vehicle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the criteria on which the new insurance policy will be based; and

(d) whether Government have fixed any criteria or it will be left at the discretion of individual insurance company which may lead to arbitrariness?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Presently, vehicle insurance is a class of business regulated by tariffs as determined by the Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC). IRDA has issued a roadmap to de-tariff all categories of general insurance business, including vehicle insurance, with effect from 1st January, 2007. Thereafter, every insurer would have to develop its own scientific basis of rating the risks, which would have to be filed with the IROA who would ensure that the basis is technically sound. The basis would also have to be fair between the insurer and the insured. Insurers are also required to file the details of each product with IRDA for scrutiny to ensure that the product is neither arbitrary nor technically unsound.

Maintenance and rehabilitation of water bodies

*96. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any census on the water bodies in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that over the years the water bodies have decayed, if so, what are the reasons for such a decay and which are the regions where such a decay is faster;